

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

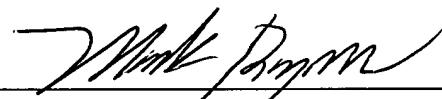
Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 7, claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 21, and claim 31 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 36. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable.

With regard to the objection to the drawings and specification, claims 8 and 10 have been cancelled, thus it is respectfully submitted that these objections are overcome.

In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 3, 2004

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark J. Rozman  
Registration No. 42,117  
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.  
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100  
Houston, Texas 77024-1805  
(512) 418-9944 [Phone]  
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]



21906

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE